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SPRING MISCELLANY

While variations in color among redbud blossoms are not unusual, deviations from the typical rose-magenta hues characteristic of the tree are less frequent. One such variant received this spring from the Willis Nursery of Ottawa, Kansas, has been named, *Cercis canadensis* 'Pink Bud'. It was discovered in the wild on an estate near Kansas City and selected for propagation because of its bright, cerise pink flowers. 'Withers Pink Charm', another redbud wildling found in the East several years ago has flowers of salmony pink hue, quite distinct from those of the 'Pink Bud.'

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From the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture the Arboretum received sufficient plants of the Asiatic Trailing Raspberry, *Rubus parvifolius*, to establish a test erosion control planting on one of the steep slopes surrounding the new settling basin above Lake Marmo. Said to be winter hardy and long lived, this prostrate branched, tip-rooting creeper has been found to be of special value for bank stabilization and wildlife cover. In summer a palatable red raspberry is produced, fruit useful to man and animal alike.

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Among the new hedges added to the Arboretum Hedge Garden this spring were the following:

Dictamnus albus, White Dittany, Gasplant

This long cultivated garden perennial with its bold, rounded habit of growth, dark compound foliage and terminal spikes of showy white flowers should make an excellent summer-time hedge 2½ to 3 feet tall.

Hemiptelea davidi, David Hemiptelea

Considering its density, bushiness and spinescent habit, it is not surprising to learn that the Chinese have long used this obscure member of the Elm family as a hedging material. Fine textured, dark green foliage adds to its desirability.

Potentilla fruticosa 'Katherine Dykes', Katherine Dykes *Potentilla*

For a low (12 to 18 inch) hedge, this pale yellow flowered dwarf *Potentilla* shows much promise. Fine-textured, soft, gray-green foliage and an extended blooming season are further attractions.

Quercus acutissima, Sawtooth Oak

A medium sized, glossy-leaved oriental oak whose sharply serrate foliage suggests American chestnut.

x*Rosa* 'Robin Hood,' Robin Hood Rose

A supposedly hardy *Rosa moschata* (Musk) hybrid which because of its dense, compact growth is being acclaimed as a flowering hedge plant. Its foliage is described as being a rich, deep green and its abundantly produced flowers cherry-red. Said to be better adapted to smaller properties than the wide-spreading *Rosa multiflora*, and to tolerate being kept clipped as low as three feet.

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The *Yucca filamentosa* planting made along Spring Road a number of years ago to transform the starkness of an abandoned gravel pit into something of beauty, was enriched this spring by the addition of fifty plants of the Small Soapweed, *Yucca glauca* (syn. *angustifolia*). This interesting species from the Great Plains is distinguished by narrower, sharply pointed foliage of grayish hue and pendulous, greenish-white flowers.

* * *

Of special interest to *Magnolia* collectors will be the two plants of *Magnolia officinalis biloba* presented to the Arboretum by Mr. G. F. Krossa of Livonia, Michigan. Grown from seed sent from Central China before the Sino-Japanese war, the plants have in the meantime become acclimated to the Detroit area in spite of the questionable Zone VI hardiness classification given the type species. In the wild this *Magnolia* becomes a tall tree (to 70 ft.), displaying smooth bark of light, rusty-ash color, light green or yellowish branchlets and very large leaves (to 15 inches long, 7 inches across). Shallow notches at their apexes serve to distinguish the variety from the type. The large, fragrant, creamy-white flowers are May blooming. Another valued *Magnolia* gift included plants of two ordinarily tender species donated by Mr. P. G. Seitner, *Magnolia* enthusiast of North Manchester, Indiana. One is a seedling of a hardy Large-leaved Cucumber Tree, *Magnolia macrophylla*, which has reached a height of 40 feet in northern Indiana, the other a seedling of *Magnolia fraseri*, the Fraser, Long-Leaf or Ear-Leaf Cucumber Tree, handsome native of the Southern Alleghenies.

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Additions to the Street Tree Collection (Spring, 1961)

The Arboretum Street Tree Collection continues to grow, but as the result of several site relocations made since the plots were established in 1955, a majority of the trees included are still small. Once well established and thriving, however, the collection should prove invaluable to anyone interested in street trees.

- Acer campestre* Hedge Maple
A dense, short-trunked, round-headed small tree (to 25 ft.) with small, five-lobed leaves and horizontally spreading seed wings.
- Acer ginnala* Amur Maple
Multiple-trunked, upright-branched small tree with distinctive attenuated central lobed leaves, conspicuous red seed wings and striking scarlet to purplish fall color.
- Acer triflorum* Threeflower Maple
Another small maple with three-parted leaves and flowers in clusters of threes. Native of Manchuria and Korea.
- Betula albo-sinensis septentrionalis* Brown Chinapaper Birch
Bold foliage and thin, exfoliating orange-brown bark are the most conspicuous features of this E. H. Wilson introduction from West China.
- Catalpa bignonioides nana* (syn. *bungei*) Umbrella Catalpa
The familiar globe headed form usually top grafted on standards. A low growing street tree for narrow parkways.
- xCrataegus oxyacantha x succulenta* 'Toba' Toba Hawthorn
Although the glossy foliage of this hybrid hawthorn is good looking, the white flowers changing to pink are more outstanding.
- Crataegus crus-galli inermis* Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn
A thornless form of the highly regarded Cockspur Thorn.
- Fraxinus holotricha* 'Moraine' Moraine Ash
A promising Ash selection introduced and contributed for trial by the Siebenthaler Nursery Company of Dayton, Ohio. Distinguished by its uniformly oval outline and dense, dark green foliage.
- Fraxinus spaethiana* Spaeth Ash
A small or medium-sized Japanese Ash noted for its large leaves, reddish brown petioles with enlarged bases, and terminal flower panicles.
- Ginkgo biloba* 'Lakeview' Lakeview Pyramidal Ginkgo
Said to be one of the most compact pyramidal selections of the Maiden-hair Tree. A male form.
- Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Maxwell' Maxwell Honey Locust
Another thornless, podless Honey Locust cultivar of pleasing growth habit.
- Magnolia kobus* Kobus Magnolia
Early white flowers, rather bold rich green foliage and a symmetrically rounded outline characterize this Japanese Magnolia. Grows to 30 feet.
- Magnolia salicifolia* Anise Magnolia
The ultimate in accent plants is the early flowering Anise Magnolia, shapely tree of even pyramidal habit. Flowers a week earlier than other species.

- Morus alba* 'Kingan' Kingan Fruitless Mulberry
A staminate (male) selection from the Willis Nursery of Ottawa, Kansas. Fast growing and of pleasing rounded outline.
- Platanus acerifolia pyramidalis* Pyramid London Plane
One of the few trees tolerant of adverse city conditions. Narrowly pyramidal with upsweeping branches.
- Populus* 'Cheyenne' Cheyenne Poplar
A selection of the Western Great Plains Field Station of the USDA noted for its even compact habit, hardiness and drouth resistance.
- Quercus imbricaria* Shingle Oak
One of the most symmetrical of our native oaks. An oval-headed tree with deflected lower branches. Foliage entire (not lobed) and of leathery texture.
- x Robinia pseudoacacia x hispida* 'Idaho' Idaho Locust
A small, lacy foliaged tree which bears a profusion of rose-pink flowers in June. To 25 feet.
- Salix matsudana umbraculifera* Umbrella Hankow Willow, Globe Willow
A shapely, globe-headed willow reputedly able to withstand extreme heat and drouth. Sufficiently low growing to be used beneath utility wires. Donor, Willis Nursery.
- Tilia japonica* Japanese Linden
The Japanese counterpart of the small-leaved European Linden. Its foliage is larger, however.
- Tilia mongolica* Mongolian Linden
A graceful small tree to 30 feet. Both the smooth young shoots and the unfolding leaves have a reddish cast.
- Tilia petiolaris* Silver Pendent Linden
Similar to, but distinct from the Silver Linden in that its branches are pendent. The lower surfaces of its long petioled, dark green leaves are silvery white beneath. To 60 feet.
- Tilia platyphyllos* Big-leaf Linden
Large, coarse-textured leaves distinguish this tall (to 100 feet), shapely, pyramidal-headed species.
- Tilia tomentosa* Silver Linden
This handsomest of lindens is a dense, pyramidal tree (to 50 feet) whose dark green foliage shows prominently white felty undersurfaces. Its summer-borne flowers are very fragrant.
- Tilia vulgaris pallida* (syn. *europaea pallida*) Royal Linden
An erect grower valued as a street tree in Europe. Similar to *T. cordata* in shape, but larger leaved.

XUlmus pumila 'Broadleaf Hybrid'

Broadleaf Chinese Elm

Advertised as "the fastest growing tree in America" by the Neosho Nurseries of Neosho, Missouri, who contributed plants for the collection. It is of pleasing shape with leaves about the size of those of American Elm. Whether or not it has inherited the faults of the type species remains to be seen.

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The only boxwood of proved hardiness locally, the Korean Littleleaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla koreana*), has the objectionable habit of turning brown in winter. And, although its foliage is retained throughout the year, it is late March before it regains its bright greenness. Those who object to the brown interval will be especially interested in a cultivar recently introduced by Scarff's Nursery, Inc. of New Carlisle, Ohio, under the name "Wintergreen" (*Buxus microphylla koreana* 'Wintergreen'). If it holds its color all winter here as it does in Ohio, it will prove a most welcome addition to our list of broad-leaved evergreens.

Misleading horticultural advertizing, seemingly on the increase, is responsible not only for the dissemination of much incorrect information, but also for endless confusion and disappointment among home gardeners. There have been, for example, numerous fantastic claims made for various roses. One involved a form described as a hardy, fast growing living fence of lush green, exploding month after month into hundreds of deeply scented, gloriously red blooms. Another introduction, a climber, is claimed to soar 20 feet high and spread 40 feet wide the first growing season. We learn further that it will "spread across bare walls like wildfire to blanket your home with radiant red roses—up to 300 giant blooms at one time, dramatic fountains of color five months of the year!" All claims notwithstanding, plants set out in the Arboretum this spring have grown no faster than other roses. Then there was the widely distributed leaflet describing the garden sensation of 1961, an amazing shade tree that grows from the height of a child to the height of a house in just a few short months. What is left unsaid is that this very tree, the ubiquitous Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is found in every metropolitan area, inhabiting alleys and other unpromising locations.

E. L. Kammerer

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Like fringe, the long-stemmed, pale yellow flowers of the Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) droop gracefully from the leafless branches.